



GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

**#179 ALTONA AND WELGUNST
CHARLOTTE AMALIE, ST. THOMAS, V.I. 00802**

March 17, 1988

Ms. Anna Gloria Ramos, P.E.
Project Coordinator
ESSO Standard Oil S.A. Limited
G.P.O. Box 4269
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-4269

Dear Ms. Ramos:

This letter is in reference to the ESSO Soil Vapor Investigation Plan and Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan, Second Revision, dated January 11, 1988, for the Esso Service Station, Tutu, St. Thomas, U.S.V.I.

Soil gas surveys are by nature useful as screening techniques to determine potential contaminant releases. A recent soil gas study in the Tutu area has provided semi-quantitative data, due in part to the use of a low-level standard to calibrate the on-site gas chromatograph (GC). Using equivalent sampling protocol such as calibration standard concentration in future studies, could assist us in accurately designing contamination assessment studies and confirmation of results.

With regard to the ESSO station specifically, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) have recommended and that the low level standard provided be at least within the low end of the range of petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations anticipated at the ESSO site. The standard should be between 1.00 and 100.0 part per billion (PPB) of benzene-toluene-ethyl benzene-xylene (BTEX) and any requested chlorinated hydrocarbon compounds.

Esso has stated that approximately 5 weeks are needed to obtain such a low standard sample. This will further delay the start-up of this project from the start-up date originally proposed. Based on this concern, EPA and DPNR have determined that the gravity of the situation requires immediate action, and the survey should commence without the lower standard.

In summary, EPA and DPNR have decided that ESSO should begin the survey within the first week of April, 1988, keeping in mind that this survey will be a qualitative study because of lack of the recommended standard.

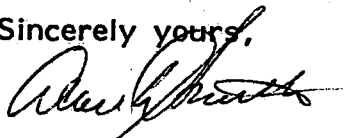
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If you have any questions or problems, please contact Mr. Gregory Rhymer at (809) 774-3320 Ext. 157 or Ms. Caroline Kwan at (212) 264-0151.

Sincerely yours,



Alan D. Smith
Commissioner

GR/ADS/fdt

cc: Francine E. Lang, Director, DEP
✓Caroline Kwan, EPA
Jose Font, EPA
Andrew Prashack, EPA